

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Withdrawn) A kit for screening molecules having an anti-prion activity, comprising:
  - a yeast of phenotype;
  - an antibiogram; and
  - a prion curing agent in a sub-effective dose, wherein the yeast has the *adel-14* allele of the *ADE1* gene and an inactivated *ERG6* gene.
2. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 1, wherein the yeast is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.
3. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 1, wherein the prion curing agent is guanidium chloride.
4. (Withdrawn) A method for screening molecules having anti-prion activity, the method comprising:
  - a. producing *in vitro* a lawn of cells on a medium containing a sub-effective dose of a prion curing agent;
  - b. contacting the cells with a test compound according to the antibiogram method;
  - c. incubating the cells for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 20-25°C; and

d. evaluating the staining of the cell colonies,  
wherein the cells comprise yeasts of [*PSI*<sup>+</sup>] phenotype having the *adel-14* allele of the *ADE1* gene and an inactivated *ERG6* gene.

5. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 4, wherein the yeast is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

6. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 4, wherein the curing agent is guanidium chloride.

7. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 4 further comprising:

e. incubating for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 2-6°C; and/or

f. carrying out a secondary screening test.

8. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 7, wherein the secondary screening test comprises:

constructing a strain of yeast in which the *ADE2* gene is under the control of the *DAL5* gene promoter;

producing *in vitro* a lawn of cells on a medium containing a sub-effective dose of a prion curing agent;

contacting the cells with a test compound according to the antibiogram method;

incubating the cells for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 20-25°C;

evaluating the staining of the cell colonies; and

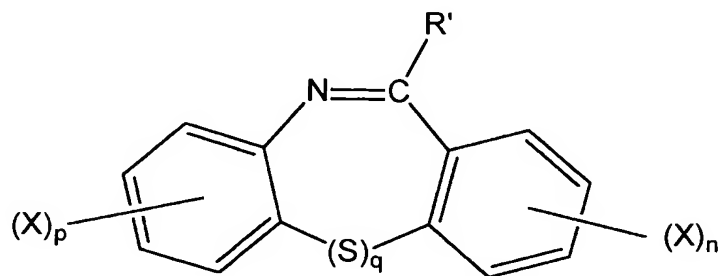
incubating for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 2-6°C.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method for treating neurodegenerative diseases involving protein aggregates, the method comprising:

administering the compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein R' is an H, NH<sub>2</sub>, or NHR<sup>2</sup> group, wherein R<sup>2</sup> is an alkyl or alkylaminoalkyl chain with 1 to 10 carbon atoms, branched or unbranched,

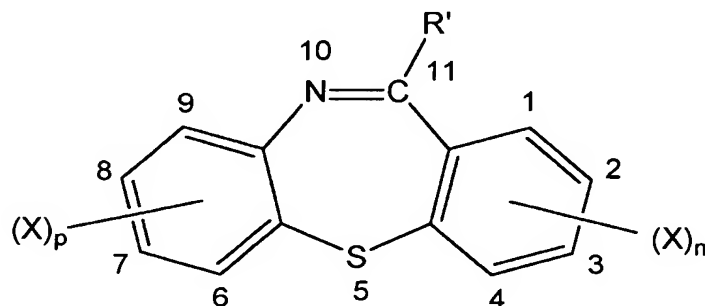
X represents F, Cl, Br, I, CF<sub>3</sub>, SCH<sub>3</sub>, OCH<sub>3</sub>, OH, NO<sub>2</sub>, COCH<sub>3</sub>, CONH<sub>2</sub>, COOH, or COOR<sup>3</sup>, where R<sup>3</sup> is an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2,

q is equal to 0 or 1.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for treating neurodegenerative diseases involving protein aggregates, the method comprising:

administering the compound of formula (III)



(III)

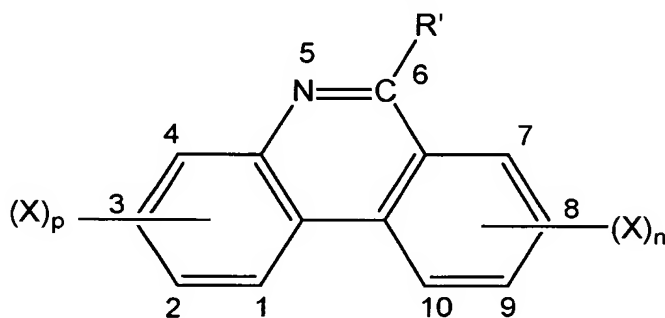
wherein R' represents an H, NH<sub>2</sub>, NH-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, NH-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)- or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-N(CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> group,

X represents F, Cl, or CF<sub>3</sub>,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for treating neurodegenerative diseases involving protein aggregates, the method comprising:

administering the compound of formula (II)



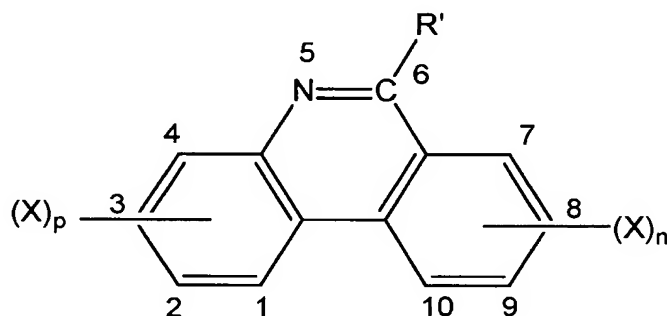
(II)

wherein R' represents an H, NH<sub>2</sub>, NH-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, NH-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>- or N(CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> group,

X represents F, Cl, or CF<sub>3</sub>,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein R' represents an NH<sub>2</sub> group, X represents F, Cl, or CF<sub>3</sub>, p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.
15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the neurodegenerative diseases include: spongiform encephalopathies, Alzheimer's disease, and Huntington's disease.
16. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising: a therapeutically effective quantity of at least one compound of formula (II)



(II)

- wherein R' represents an H, NH<sub>2</sub>, NH-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, NH-CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)- or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-N(CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> group, X represents F, Cl, or CF<sub>3</sub>, p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2, in combination with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

17. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 wherein in the compound of formula (II), R' represents an NH<sub>2</sub> group, X represents F, Cl, or CF<sub>3</sub>, p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.
18. (New) A method of treatment comprising the administration to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective dose of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 16.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered to a patient suffering from a neurodegenerative disease.

20. (New) A method of treatment comprising the administration to a patient in need thereof of a therapeutically effective dose of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 17.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered to a patient suffering from a neurodegenerative disease.